

Paint

Household Hazardous Waste

Disposing of paint in the trash or sink causes toxic chemicals to seep into the soil and water, thus creating a **very real threat to individuals and the environment, not to mention it is illegal**. Leftover paint is considered household hazardous waste. Household hazardous waste products, such as paints, contain potentially hazardous metals that **require special care when you dispose of them**.

Are the paint containers recyclable?

Yes, empty paint cans are accepted in your recycling bin. **Paint cans with less than 1 inch left can be left to dry for up to a week**. Afterwards simply remove the lid **before placing in your recycling bin**.

Where do I recycle paint?

There are about 50 paint retailers in San Diego County that currently participate in the PaintCare program. PaintCare is a paint stewardship program on behalf of paint manufacturers in California that have passed paint stewardship laws in order to **keep harmful chemicals out of the environment**. The program allows participating paint retailers to take back paint from residents to recycle it properly.

Paint Recycling Checklist

- Paint must be in its original container
- Container must be labeled and legible
- Container must be in good condition, not leaking
- Container must be 5 gallons in size or smaller
- Check with the site if you have more than 5 gallons

What if the labels are missing and the paint cans are rusting?

This paint will not be accepted at participating retailers, however, **household hazardous waste collection facilities** accept a variety of items. **Search "Household Hazardous Waste"** on the WasteFreeSD homepage to find a nearby location.

What type of paint is accepted at PaintCare locations?

Types of architectural paints that are accepted at participating PaintCare locations include:

Interior and exterior architectural paints, latex, acrylic, water-based, alkyd, oil-based, enamel (all types of finishes and sheens, including textured coatings), deck coatings, floor paints (including elastomeric), primers, sealers, and undercoaters, stains, shellacs, lacquers, varnishes, urethanes (single component), waterproofing concrete/masonry/wood sealers and repellents (not tar or bitumen-based), swimming pool paints (single component), metal coatings, and rust preventatives.

Leaking, unlabeled and empty containers are not accepted at PaintCare drop-off sites. Paint retailers do not accept aerosol, industrial, original equipment, or specialty coatings.

